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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Division of Insurance Investigates Allegations of Illegal Activities**

The Alaska Division of Insurance Director Linda Hall announced today that the Division will investigate allegations of bid rigging and other sales-related insurance activities on both local and national levels. The allegations arose from a probe into illegal insurance sales practices in the state of New York.

In addition to conducting its own comprehensive investigation, the Division is participating in a national investigative effort being coordinated by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' (NAIC).

"Alaska's insurance industry is competitive and well-regulated," said Director Hall. "However, when potential illegal activities in the industry come to light, the scope of which may extend across state lines, we need to move quickly to protect Alaska's businesses and consumers."

Bid rigging involves the improper steering of contracts to predetermined winners. The process may include the use of inflated or fictitious bids or prices for insurance, thereby preventing a fair and competitive bid process.

Any Alaska business and consumer who suspects fraud or illegal insurance activities are encouraged to contact the Division of Insurance at (907) 269-7900.

The Alaska Division of Insurance is committed to providing consumers fair but vigilant regulation while promoting a competitive environment for insurers. The Department regulates and licenses insurance companies, agents and brokers, and insurance agencies and monitors the financial solvency of the insurance industry in Alaska.

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